

27 July 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Southeast Europe Division

SUBJECT : Possible propaganda exploitation of recent governmental developments in Albania.

1. I note that under the recent reorganization of the Albanian government announced on 23 July it would appear that control of the country remains in the hands of Enver Hoxha and Mehmet Shehu, with the former continuing as Premier and party leader and the latter (although relieved of his responsibility as Secretary of the Central Committee of the party) retaining his position as Minister of the Interior and Deputy Premier. I do not know how much real information we have on the rivalry between Hoxha and Shehu, nor upon the backing and connections which Shehu has heretofore enjoyed within the USSR. However, I should like to submit for your consideration the following propagandistic treatment and exploitation of this latest development.

2. My thought is that we might give some black and/or gray treatment to the theme that "Shehu was and is a "Beria man," and that he has suffered a severe reverse as the result of Beria's eclipse. However, Shehu's position is sufficiently strong to prevent his having been sacked completely, and in point of fact he is so well entrenched as the result of the control of the sinews of state security that he has been able to maintain himself albeit precariously. On the basis of most recent information coming to the attention of the Albanian National Committee from sources within the Albanian government which have hitherto proved reliable -- it appears that further moves are afoot to complete the undermining of Shehu's position. It is not known to what extent Shehu may be aware of these designs against him but it is presumed because of his position that he must have some knowledge or inkling of the plot, and accordingly that he must be taking measures to protect himself."

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By the way -- just where do we stand on the fresh approach to the State Department which I understand [] as making on

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the basis of our recent conversations and my memorandum discussing the significance of the Greek-Turkish-Yugoslav accord on Albania. The subject of Albania was again raised by Mr. C. D. Jackson at the latest meeting of the PSB and he was quite emphatic in requesting "action." Mr. Dulles assured Mr. Jackson that we were moving ahead just as fast as conditions permit, and that in any case the first essential step would be action in the diplomatic field of the kind necessary to create the proper atmosphere. I recall that my latest discussion with Messrs. Helms, [] [] [] et al had to do with the preparation of a new streamlined memorandum summing up our views and recommendations.

(Signed) FRANK G. WISNER

FRANK G. WISNER
Deputy Director (Plans)

DD/P:FGW/vmh 25 July 1953
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